

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating an upper airway condition of a patient, said method comprising:

selecting an implant sized to be implanted into a tissue of a pharyngeal wall of said patient, said implant having mechanical characteristics for said implant to resist deflection of said wall and urge a deflected tissue to return to a rest state; and

implanting said implant into said tissue of said pharyngeal wall.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is metal.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein said metal is nitinol.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant has tissue in-growth areas.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein said condition is obstructive sleep apnea.
6. A method according to claim 1 wherein said implant is not connected to a bony structure.
7. An apparatus for treating an upper airway condition of a patient, said apparatus comprising:
an implant sized to be implanted into a tissue of a pharyngeal wall of said patient, said implant having mechanical characteristics for said implant to resist deflection of said wall and urge a deflected tissue to return to a rest state.
8. An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said implant is metal.
9. An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said metal is nitinol.

10. An apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said implant has tissue in-growth areas.